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Atty. Dkt. No. 049411-0238

Appl. No. 10/502,461

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Y. T. YANG et al.
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR VACUUM-BASED
NANOMECHANICAL ENERGY
FORCE AND MASS SENSORS
Appl. No.: 10/502,461
Filing Date: 5/7/2003
Examiner: Andrew O. Arena
Art Unit: 2811
Confirmation Number: 3993

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance to 37 C.F.R. § 1.133, Applicants submit a record of the substance of the interview conducted on March 11, 2008, by Applicants' representative Alexey Saprigin (Reg. # 56, 439) with Examiners Andrew O. Arena and Samuel Gebremariam. This statement is timely because it is submitted within one (1) month of the mailing date of March 25, 2008, of the Interview Summary.

During the interview, Applicants' representative explained to the Examiners the Applicants' position as presented in the response filed February 12, 2008. In particular, Applicants' representative explained to the Examiners that 1) the prior art references of record do not teach or suggest a doubly clamped, suspended beam with a submicron width; 2) the prior art references of record do not teach or suggest at least one side drive gate; 3) the prior art references of record do not tech or suggest a transducer layer fabricated

asymmetrically within a thickness of the beam; 4) the prior art references of record do not teach or suggest a side gate located within a submicron distance from a side of the beam. Applicants' representative also explained to the Examiner's that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have a required motivation and a required reasonable expectation of success to combine Westervelt (US patent No. 5,663,507) and Nguyen (US patent No. 5,976,994) because an introduction of Nguyen's drive electrode into Westervelt's FET based device would either change a principle of Westervelt's device operation or would have made Westervelt's device inoperable. In response, the Examiners ensured Applicants' representative that they will give full consideration of all the issues presented in the February 12th response and a proper response to the Applicants' comments and remarks will be given in the upcoming office action.

During the interview, the Examiners also indicated that the claims clarity may be improved if the claims were reciting an asymmetric multilayer or stack structure.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

April 24, 2008

By



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